



News about information systems throughout

Volume 11 • Number 1 September 1995

SSumMIT 4.1 Offers Property Reporting System.....	2
<b>Software Spotlight</b>	
Netscape Navigator: The Cool Web Browser of the Moment .....	3
<b>Network Notes</b>	
Guidelines for Choosing a Modem .....	4
<b>Computer Corner</b> .....	4
<b>MIT Computer Connection/ Bits and Bytes</b>	
New Macintosh PowerBooks Based on PowerPC Chip .....	5
Turn Over a New Leaf: Take an IS Computer Class This Fall .....	5
<b>Publishing Pointers</b>	
There's No Place Like Home Pages: A Tour of Two .....	6
Connect and Search: It's a Brand New Barton .....	7
<b>Getting Help</b> .....	8
<b>Recent Publications from Information Systems</b> .....	8

### City of Bits: The Shape of Things to Come

Lee Ridgway  
Publication Services

In his latest book, *City of Bits: Space, Place, and the Infobahn*, Prof. William J. Mitchell examines our futures in cyberspace from the perspective of an architect, design theorist, and urban planner. What Mitchell presents in this short book (just over 200 pages) are predictions and comments on how to reimagine the built things we call architecture and the places we call communities in the context of a digitized, miniaturized, and networked 21st century.

In keeping with a book about cyberspace, The MIT Press has pioneered the way by publishing *City of Bits* on the World Wide Web as well as on paper; the Web URL is

[http://www-mitpress.mit.edu/City\\_of\\_Bits/](http://www-mitpress.mit.edu/City_of_Bits/)

In the Web version, the text, footnotes, and an appendix of "Surf Sites" are laced with hypertext links. Since these links go to far-flung sites that offer their own intriguing paths for exploration, browsing *City of Bits* on the Web is more like a free-form ramble, while the hardcover version gears the reader for a linear progression through chapters.

#### Soft Cities

Mitchell's thesis is that, as the worldwide computer network ("the Net")

becomes the place where we do more things and have most of our associations with institutions and people, a new kind of invisible community – what he calls "soft cities" – will emerge. He challenges architects and urban designers to think in radically new ways to create the electronically mediated environments that will help make cyberspace a civilized "place." Mitchell does not discuss the relevant issues in depth, but he knows that they must be addressed now, "...because the emerging civic structures and spatial arrangements of the digital era will profoundly affect our access to economic opportunities and public services, the character and content of public discourse, the forms of cultural activity, the enactment of power, and the experiences that give shape and texture to our daily routines."

#### Prognostications

Mitchell's book follows on the heels of other prognosticators of the digital future, including Nicholas Negroponte in *Being Digital*. Mitchell sets the context for his futuristic scenarios by connecting them with their historic or current manifestations within buildings or communities. In doing so, what he sets up for the reader as traditional and familiar, such as building types or the many facets of urban living, ends up being transformed, displaced, or replaced. For example, telemedicine could make possible diagnosis and monitoring

*continued on page 2* ▶

from the home through devices connected to the digital network; this would have a profound effect on the building of hospitals and medical clinics.

Mitchell moves at a fast pace. He goes from the known to the unknown without dwelling on how we are to prepare for our futures in cyberspace. Instead, Mitchell describes how information technology will become an integral part of just about everything having to do with our lives and our very beings. He envisions personal software agents and aliases that will stand in your behalf to screen mail, calls, appointments, and all contact with the rest of the electronic world. (What if your software agent outlasts you? A kind of virtual immortality? "Does resurrection reduce to restoration from backup?" asks Mitchell.)

Then there are the personal electronic devices that will attach to and envelop you in a kind of bodynet, eventually bridging "the carbon/silicon gap" between your nervous system and the worldwide digital network – a vision of human as cyborg.

Also, the physical manifestations of most institutions as we know them will have become completely transformed, if not discarded entirely. Going to museums, libraries, concerts, the theater, school, work, stores, the doctor, the hospital, prison, or church will be done mostly within electronically mediated environments – and may not even require that you leave home. Houses themselves will be designed with "information appliances" throughout that will perform the mediation.

#### Questions Raised

What does all of this mean for our economic, social, political, and cultural activities? What does it mean to be a citizen in cyberspace? The ways in which we humans act towards one another – for good or ill – in the physical, "real" world are being transferred to this new amorphous, "virtual" world. How do we transfer structures for mediation, protection, governance, and commerce to a "place" where the traditional boundaries (of countries, states, cities, neighborhoods, schools, companies) that delimit power, control, and influence are no longer relevant?

As you may surmise, *City of Bits* raises many questions. The book's purpose seems to be not so much to provide answers but to provoke discussion about the prospects of living in cyberspace – and discuss you can. Befitting a book in which the author sketches the various places throughout history where people have gathered for discussion (agoras, fora, coffeehouses, clubs), the MIT Press has set up a "place" for online discussion. From the *City of Bits* Web page, you can read and send comments, and ask questions. You may even find William Mitchell himself responding to postings.

In addition to discussion, you can explore Reader's Choice Web Sites. These are links, added by readers, to Web sites around the world that have information of some relevance to topics touched upon in the book.

William J. Mitchell is Professor of Architecture and Media Arts and Sciences, and Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning. *City of Bits: Space, Place, and the Infobahn* was published this summer by The MIT Press. It is available at The MIT Press Bookstore for \$20.

---

## \$SumMIT 4.1 Offers Property Reporting System

\$SumMIT 4.1 users can access data on MIT property using SumProp. This property reporting system lets you conduct searches by MIT tag number, acquisition document number (P.O., requisition, or voucher), manufacturer, model or serial number, account number, and so on. MIT's property data, stored in a database on the MITVMA mainframe, is maintained by the Property Office.

To do a search, you can click on the buttons on SumProp's Main Menu or select items from the Quick Searches menu. The Quick Searches menu has an option for batch reports, if you want to display complete details for multiple items at once.

Using well-defined search criteria improves SumProp's response time, since a targeted search returns fewer matching items. SumProp tells you


how many matching records were found before downloading item data. You can cancel without downloading (for example, if the number of records is very large).

Once you have downloaded a list of records, you can

- Print the list on your local printer
- Display more detail for any record in the list
- Select a subset of records manually
- Perform a multilevel sort (and select sort order)
- Search the list for a subset of records
- Search the database again and append the results to the current list

#### Information/Authorization

To get authorization for SumProp, send e-mail to <property@mit.edu> or call x3-0918. You can learn more about \$SumMIT and SumProp by opening this World Wide Web URL:

<http://web.mit.edu/cao/www/> 



Managing Editor  
Robyn Fizz  
Writer/Editor  
Lee Ridgway

*i/s* is published monthly from September to June. MIT faculty and staff receive copies through campus mail; *i/s* is also available in lobbies around campus. Individuals at MIT, other schools, or computing organizations may subscribe by contacting the managing editor.

Send comments or subscription requests to: MIT 11-309, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307  
Phone: (617) 253-0540  
Electronic mail: <fizz@mit.edu>

To access *i/s* via the World Wide Web, go to <http://web.mit.edu/tps/www/isnews/>

Articles are also posted in TechInfo. The path is Computing → Publications → Information Systems Publications → *i/s* Newsletter.

All product names are trademarks of their manufacturers.

© 1995 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

---



## Netscape Navigator: The Cool Web Browser of the Moment

Albert Willis  
CSS Consulting

If you thought you'd never pay much attention to the World Wide Web, you're probably chuckling at your naiveté. The Internet-based system of linked hypertext pages has gone mainstream. Web addresses (URLs) are everywhere you turn, from movie previews to magazine ads.

One of the driving forces behind the Web's explosive growth is Netscape Navigator from Netscape Communications. This popular browser application makes it easy to navigate the Web. Recent statistics show that Netscape users account for 75% of Web traffic.

Here at MIT, IS recommends and supports Netscape. It runs on the three platforms widely used at MIT: Macintosh, Windows, and Unix (Sun, Silicon Graphics, IBM RS/6000).

### Cool Features of Netscape

Netscape Navigator has many useful features. For starters, when you open a page in Netscape, text and graphics download at almost the same time. Once you get used to this, it's hard to adjust to browsers that download text first, then graphics one by one.

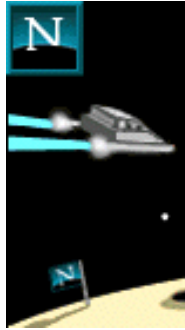
Netscape's Bookmarks feature lets you create a hierarchical menu of the sites you want to revisit. You can group these sites into categories and subcategories. Netscape also lets you search for Bookmarks, include notes on each site, and put the Bookmarks in whatever order you like.

Netscape has been optimized for use over 14,400-bps modem links to the Internet. Those who connect via Tether (MIT's dialup service to MITnet) with a 14,400-bps modem find Netscape reasonably fast. Even pages with lots of graphics display fairly quickly.

One feature that makes a connection like this workable is Netscape's cache ability: Netscape can store Web pages to disk during a session; if that page is accessed again, Netscape pulls it from the cache instead of downloading it again. That makes a significant difference when using a dialup connection.

Finally, Netscape supports remote control and inter-application commu-

nication protocols: Apple Events under the Macintosh Operating System, OLE/DDE under Windows, and X events under Unix.



### HTML 3.0 Support

Web pages viewed with Netscape may show features that other Web browsers can't display. This is because Netscape has implemented extensions to HTML (HyperText Markup Language) that support layout features such as background patterns and colors, tables, and the ability to change font sizes within a document. (IS advises against using the Tables feature until it is supported by more browsers.)

However, Netscape's enhanced HTML (known as HTML 3.0), isn't standard. HTML 2.0 is the current standard, set by the standards organization for HTML (the World Wide Web Consortium, based at MIT). Since this group has yet to ratify 3.0, some people view Netscape as a renegade browser. HTML 3.0 may not be ratified until 1996 or 1997.

Meanwhile, the market may do the deciding: many Web sites recommend Netscape Navigator to access all the features their sites offer.

### Security

Netscape supports authentication and RSA encryption by using the Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) protocol. Authentication verifies that you are who you say you are. Encryption secures passwords, user names, and other information being transferred between Netscape and Web servers that support SSL. Together, these features permit private transactions over the Internet.

Netscape's default setting is to alert you when you are about to send information insecurely over the Internet. Netscape also alerts you when you are connected to a Web server that's secure: the site's URL begins with `https://` instead of the usual `http://`. There's also an icon of a key in the status area of the screen when you're connected securely; the icon of the key is broken if the connection is insecure.

Recently, two U.C.-Berkeley students discovered a security vulnerability in the current version of Netscape Navigator (1.1 for Macintosh and Unix; 1.2 for Windows 3.1 and Windows 95). Netscape is releasing a software fix; for information on getting a copy, see the availability section below.

### Future Developments

Netscape has created partnerships with a who's who of high-tech companies, and is committed to supporting the following technologies:

- Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF). PDF documents, created with Adobe Acrobat, are compressed files that retain their full formatting.
- Java, a programming language from Sun Microsystems. Java lets users create mini-applications that work on multiple platforms across the Internet.
- Apple's QuickTime and QuickTime VR. (QuickTime VR is a new type of digital movie that lets you move through a panoramic scene).
- Macromedia's playback engine for Director, a multimedia authoring application for Macintoshes and PCs.
- VRML, a virtual-reality modeling language that lets you navigate 3D spaces on the Internet.

Netscape 2.0, which will support the technologies outlined above, is due by the end of 1995. You can download a beta version now from the Netscape home page at

<http://home.netscape.com/>

### Availability and Support

Netscape Navigator is free to students, faculty, and staff at educational institutions, as well as staff at nonprofit organizations. Others are expected to pay \$39 for it after a 90-day evaluation. Nonpaying users aren't entitled to support from Netscape.

At MIT, a Netscape installer package is on the server `net-dist.mit.edu`, which you can get to by anonymous ftp or via TechInfo. In all likelihood, the versions with the security fix will be available there by the time you read this.

For help downloading or using Netscape Navigator, contact the Network Help Desk at x3-4101 or [<net-help@mit.edu>](mailto:<net-help@mit.edu>).

## Guidelines for Choosing a Modem

Joanne Costello  
Network Services

This article reviews what you need to consider before buying a modem. It is a condensed version of the IS publication, *Choosing a Modem* (NS-42), which you can view on the Web at

<http://web.mit.edu/tps/www/NS/NS-42.html>

You can also get a copy by sending e-mail to <sendpubs@mit.edu> or calling x3-5150.

### Compatibility

When choosing a modem, first consider whether it will work with your system and applications. IS tests and recommends modems for dialup services it provides, such as Tether, TechMail-S, Athena dialup, and access to MITVMA/C. Buying an IS-recommended modem ensures that it will work with current and future MIT applications, and that if you run into a problem you will be able to get help. See the list of current modem recommendations in TechInfo. The path is Computing→Products Supported by IS→IS Recommended Modems.



### External vs. Internal

A modem can be either an external device or a card installed inside the machine. An external modem is a stand-alone unit connected to your computer with a serial cable. Another cable connects the modem to a telephone jack. You must also plug the modem into an electrical outlet.

Internal modems are more likely to be found in portable computers. A cable from the back of the computer plugs directly into a telephone jack.

Internal modems do have disadvantages. Moving the modem to a different machine is tedious. Resetting an internal modem usually requires rebooting the machine. Troubleshooting is more difficult and requires that you take the entire computer to the shop. An internal modem permanently occupies one serial port on your computer – you cannot easily remove it temporarily to plug some other device into that serial port.

Newer portables have PCMCIA slots that accommodate a credit card-sized modem. Easily inserted and removed, these have the convenience of internal modems for travelers, and the benefits of external modems for troubleshooting. Some machines have only one PCMCIA slot; if you wish to alternate between a modem and PCMCIA Ethernet device, you have to switch the two cards, buy an external modem, or buy a combination modem/Ethernet card.

**Recommendation:** In general, IS recommends that you buy an external modem. However, laptop users may prefer the convenience of an internal modem.

### Speed Ratings

Modems are rated by the speed, measured in bits per second (bps), at which data is transferred over a phone line. Common speeds are: 300, 1200, 2400, 9600, 14,400, and 28,800 bps.

Some applications, such as e-mail, may work at slower speeds. However, if you plan to use Tether or any other Internet provider to access resources with a graphical interface, such as the World Wide Web, you will need a high-speed modem.

**Recommendation:** Buy a modem running at 14,400 bps or higher.

### Modulation Protocols

For two devices to communicate, they must agree on a set of modulation protocols, or “rules of the road” by which the data will travel. The basic line speed supported by your modem depends on its compliance with modulation protocols. These include V.22, V.32 (9600 bps), V.32bis (14,400 bps), and V.34 (28,800 bps).

**Recommendation:** Look for a statement saying that the modem supports V.32, V.32bis, or V.34. Buy a V.34 modem for speeds higher than 14,400 bps.

### Caveats

Check vendor ads carefully – speed claims may be misleading! Make sure the claimed speed (bps) corresponds to the modem’s stated protocol. Also be careful with data/fax modem ads; a device listed at 2400/9600 bps means it can communicate with fax machines at 9600 bps, but transfer data with computers at a rate of only 2400 bps. ☺



This column presents news and tips from the consultants who staff the Microcomputing Help Line, x3-0001. Check out their Web home page at <http://micro-help.mit.edu/>



Should I upgrade my DOS machine to Windows 95?



Our advice is to WAIT. This new 32-bit operating system contains major changes and developments that may affect compatibility with existing software and hardware. If you choose to upgrade now, some of your applications may not work. Until IS staff complete testing and training on Windows 95, only partial support will be offered. Full support is expected to be in place over the next few months.

For more information, see the MIT Windows 95 Web page:

<http://web.mit.edu/win95/>

### Virus Warning!

#### Microsoft Word 6.0 Targeted

A recently discovered virus affects Microsoft Word 6.0 on Windows and Macintosh platforms. The virus spreads to your Word application when you open an infected Word document, even if the file is transferred across platforms. Infected files contain Microsoft Word-Basic macros which can attach to other documents. If the virus has infected your Word documents, you may see a dialog box with the number 1 in it and an OK button. Also the virus may force you to save infected Word files as templates rather than as normal documents.

You can check to find out if you are infected by opening Word; from the Tools menu select Macro. If you see the following macros on the list, your Word application is infected:

AAAZAO  
AAAZFS  
AutoOpen  
Payload  
FileSaveAs

You can delete these macros manually from within Word. In addition, Microsoft has developed the Scan831.doc tool to automatically delete and protect against the virus macros. Scan831.doc is available at

<http://www.microsoft.com/MSOffice/prank.htm> ☺



## New Macintosh PowerBooks Based on PowerPC Chip

Ginny Williams  
MIT Computer Connection

Apple Computer announced the new Macintosh PowerBook 5300 series, Duo 2300c, and PowerBook 190 series on August 28. The PowerBook 5300 and Duo 2300c are the first notebook computers to include PowerPC technology. The 190s provide PowerBook 500-series performance at an affordable price, and can accept a PowerPC logic board for future upgrades.

You can order the PowerBook 5300s now. By mid-October, the MIT Computer Connection will have pricing for the Duo 2300c and PowerBook 190s, as well as information about their availability.

### The PowerBook 5300 Series

The 5300 series incorporates a PowerPC 603e processor, RAM expandable to 64MB, and an expansion bay with a connector for third-party devices such as an additional hard drive or magneto-optical drive. Two PCMCIA slots let you add a modem, Ethernet networking, or other cards. Infrared technology enables easy file sharing – no cables needed. This series also features high-capacity hard drives, a removable 3.5" diskette drive, and long battery life.

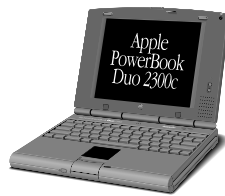
There are four 5300 models, based on the display technology used.

- The 5300 features a 9.5" backlit passive-matrix LCD with 16 levels of gray. Resolution: 640x480 pixels.
- The 5300cs has a 10.4" backlit dual-scan color LCD that supports 256 colors. Resolution: 640x480 pixels.
- The 5300c has a 10.4" backlit active-matrix color LCD. It supports 256 colors with 512KB of VRAM, and thousands of colors with 1MB of VRAM. Resolution: 640x480 pixels.
- The 5300ce has a 10.4" backlit active-matrix color SVGA LCD. Its built-in 1MB of VRAM supports thousands of colors. Resolution: 800x600 pixels.

### Take Your Pick

The PowerBook 5300 comes in six configurations: the 5300c and 5300ce models offer two options each in terms of RAM and hard drive capacity.

- **PowerBook 5300/100MHz** with 8MB RAM, 500MB hard drive M3135 MIT \$2090  
**Note:** This configuration is offered through mid-October only.
- **PowerBook 5300cs/100MHz** with 8MB RAM, 500MB hard drive M3825 MIT \$2610
- **PowerBook 5300cs/100MHz** with 16MB RAM, 750MB hard drive M3824 MIT \$3265
- **PowerBook 5300c/100MHz** with 8MB RAM, 500MB hard drive M3133 MIT \$3445
- **PowerBook 5300c/100MHz** with 16MB RAM, 750MB hard drive M4488 MIT \$4190
- **PowerBook 5300ce/117MHz** with 32MB RAM, 1.1GB hard drive M3828 MIT \$6050



### The PowerBook Duo 2300c

The Duo 2300c brings a new level of performance to sub-notebook computing with

its 100MHz PowerPC processor. It has a 9.5" active-matrix color display, an improved Apple trackpad, and a large (750MB or 1.1GB) internal hard drive. Its memory can be expanded to 56MB, and it has a slot for an internal modem. All existing Duo 200 series accessories and docking products will work with the 2300c. Apple will also offer a PowerPC logic board upgrade for current Duo 200 owners.

### The PowerBook 190 Series

The 190 series is based on the Motorola 68LC040 66/33MHz processor. Features include two PCMCIA slots, an expansion bay, and an improved Apple trackpad. You can choose between a grayscale (190) or color (190cs) display. The diskette drive can be removed and replaced with an additional storage device or internal AC adapter. You can upgrade the system in many ways, by adding a PowerPC processor, an active-matrix screen, or infrared technology.

The PowerBook 190s come bundled with ClarisWorks and the PowerBook Mobility bundle. ☺

## Turn Over a New Leaf: Take an IS Computer Class This Fall

Jeanne Cavanaugh  
Training Services

The IS Training Services group encourages all MIT staff to start the new academic year by examining their own goals for learning computer skills. The fall quarter of IS computer courses and Quick Start classes begins October 1.

The hands-on courses and modules, which are fee-based, can help you become proficient in selected applications that are popular on campus. Featured software includes Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, Excel, FileMaker Pro, PageMaker, Photoshop, and PowerPoint.

Quick Start demonstration classes, which last about an hour, are free. They are intended to help you get started with a new computer or commonly used software.

### Project Management

Training Services has also added a course on Microsoft Project 4.0. Consider taking this course if you have a knowledge of project management concepts, but need to learn a tool that will streamline the development and tracking of your project plans. This course shows you how to create PERT, Gantt, and resource allocation reports, do "what if" analyses, monitor plans, and update project schedules.

### Web-Related Offerings

Training Services also offers classes and Quick Starts to help you learn about the World Wide Web. For newcomers, there's a hands-on course on Exploring the Internet, as well as a World Wide Web Quick Start. If you want to learn how to publish on the Web, attend the free, three-hour HTML demo. For hands-on instruction, sign up for Electronic Publishing Using HTML.

### Business Modules

Training Services continues to offer modules on the CAO and \$SumMIT applications, as well as a module on Electronic Time Sheets and Journal Vouchers. These systems will remain in heavy use at MIT while the new SAP financial package is under development.

### Course Catalog

For complete course and Quick Start descriptions, see the IS Fall '95 *Computer Training Catalog*. If you didn't receive a copy, call x3-7685 or send mail to <wray@mit.edu>. ☺



## There's No Place Like Home Pages: A Tour of Two

Janet Daly  
Academic Computing Services

Welcome to a new *i/s* column, Publishing Pointers. This column will address topics related to electronic publishing, from creating paper-based documents on computers to providing information via the World Wide Web. It will examine how to do both types of publishing in complementary ways, and point out specific resources at MIT. It will also explore publication tools, design, and maintenance.

This first column takes a look at the two main MIT sites for Web publishing.

### Web Publishing: Where to Begin?

If, as a member of the MIT community, you want to publish information on the World Wide Web, you might be asking yourself, "Where does this information go? Does MIT have sites on the Web for publishing documents?"

The concept of home pages is key to answering these questions. A Web home page serves as the front door to an electronic site, a place to welcome visitors and introduce them to the information and services available there. There are Web home pages for all types of organizations, including companies, towns, universities, and government offices, as well as home pages for individuals.

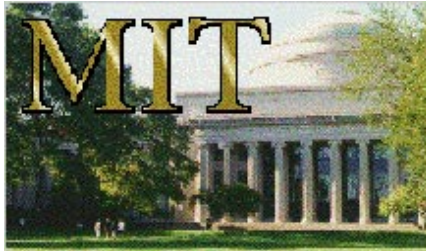
At MIT, two main home pages lead to distinctly different campuses. In many ways, these two home pages mirror the differences between MIT's two newspapers – *Tech Talk* and *The Tech*. Here's what you'll find when you step through the two main electronic "doors" to the campus.

### The Official Front Door

The address (URL) for the official MIT Home Page is

<http://web.mit.edu/>

It sits on [web.mit.edu](http://web.mit.edu), the MIT Web server. This home page serves as MIT's public, formal presence on the Web, and so must conform to certain standards in content and delivery. Without editorial opinion, it gives the visitor an overall view of resources at the Institute. It provides links to MIT departments, offices, and supported electronic services.



From the top level, you can access the online directory and the MIT Libraries. The major links include

- General Information
- Academics and Research
- Administration and Services
- Computing at MIT
- Publications
- Campus Activities & New England
- Services offered by [web.mit.edu](http://web.mit.edu)

There is also a revolving "Spotlight" feature which includes links that are particularly timely. (This month, the spotlight is on MIT pages of special interest to new students.)

### The Student Entrance

Door number two is the SIPB WWW Server Home Page at

<http://www.mit.edu:8001/>

It resides on the SIPB Web server, [www.mit.edu](http://www.mit.edu).

SIPB (the Student Information Processing Board) is a student group concerned with computing at MIT. It was one of the first organizations on campus to provide Web services.



The SIPB Home Page reflects the interests of students at MIT. It has playful graphical elements, an informal prose style, and links to many experimental services.

From the top level, you can get weather forecasts and Athena cluster maps. The page includes a variety of links that, while not "official," are useful and fun. Major headings include:

- What's New
- Other Servers around MIT
- Useful Services and Gateways
- Home Pages of MIT People
- MIT Organizations and Activities
- Interesting Documents
- Fun Stuff (take note, Dilbert fans)

### Getting a Home Page Link

Both the official MIT and SIPB home pages have features and links that serve the MIT community and the wider Web audience beyond. Browsing through these home pages should give you an idea of where your information belongs. As a rule, plan to publish your personal home page or experimental offering on the SIPB home page, and Institute-based public information on the MIT Home Page.

Before you can publish online, though, you need to understand how the servers are managed and how pages get listed there.

The SIPB server is privately managed, and its administrators select the information they want to provide. Links are added based on requests sent to [<webmaster@mit.edu>](mailto:webmaster@mit.edu). For instance, to list your personal home page on the SIPB server, you would send e-mail to [<webmaster@mit.edu>](mailto:webmaster@mit.edu) and include the URL for listing.

IS staff manage MIT's official Web server. This site is a public repository for all kinds of MIT reference material. You can request a link for a department, lab, or office, as well as links for MIT activities, projects, publications, or procedures. These requests should be sent to [<web-request@mit.edu>](mailto:web-request@mit.edu).

Administrators from IS and SIPB meet to develop resources suitable to each server and to discuss problems of redundancy. In this way, each home page retains its own purpose and personality.

### Getting Help


There are many MIT resources for publishing on the Web. If you want to publish online material that will be used for educational purposes, you can get help by contacting the Faculty Liaisons at x3-0115 or [<f\\_l@mit.edu>](mailto:f_l@mit.edu).

For help with placing general MIT information on the Web, contact Suzana Lisanti at x3-0101 or send e-mail to [<cwis-help@mit.edu>](mailto:cwis-help@mit.edu).

A summary page of help resources can be found at

<http://web.mit.edu/help-resources.html>

In addition, you can find a set of Web-based instructional materials at

<http://web.mit.edu/publishing.html> 

## Connect and Search: It's a Brand New Barton

Nina Davis-Millis  
MIT Libraries

The MIT Libraries have worked for several years toward implementing the Geac Computing Company's Advance system. The new system's various modules (catalog, circulation, reserve, acquisitions, and serials) are now being phased into operation. The new version of Barton, the online catalog, has been in place since August.

### Advantages of the New System

Unlike the older Barton, the Advance version can serve many remote users simultaneously. You can connect to Barton remotely through MITnet, telnet, or dialup access.

The Advance catalog also offers many more options for searching. You can now do various types of keyword searches; employ Boolean operators; limit your search to particular library units or types of materials; or restrict a search to a date or range of dates. You can specify searches for MIT theses; the index lets you look for MIT theses written in a particular department or supervised by a particular individual.

### Using the System

On Athena, you can access Barton via the Dash menu by selecting the Special menu and choosing MIT Libraries → \*MIT Libraries Services. A small window is launched that lists the various available resources. Clicking on \*Barton opens a connection to the catalog. You can also type the following at the athena% prompt

```
add library; library
```

Users with access to the World Wide Web can connect to Barton, and its Help page, from the MIT Libraries Home Page at

```
http://nimrod.mit.edu/
```

(Your Web browser needs to be configured for telnet. Netscape users can set this up via the Applications and Directories menu item, under Preferences.)

The telnet address for Barton is

```
library.mit.edu
```

For dialup instructions, call x3-5683 and press 6, or go to a library and pick up a printed copy of the instructions.

Once connected, follow the instructions on the login screen. For login name, type `library;` for password, press Return.

Barton's welcome screen offers four selections. Choose the first option, Search Online Catalog, to enter the catalog. This will open a new screen, shown below.

In subsequent screens, when you select New search, you are returned to this screen. You must also return here to exit Barton.

### Searches

The FIRST WORD searches in the left-hand column (below) put you directly into an alphabetical listing for whichever index you select. For example, to search for books about a topic, select the subject index either by moving the highlight bar to the word "Subject" or by typing `s=`, then type in the topic you're looking for.

Barton returns a list of headings. You may select any or all that look interesting. (Some headings may appear to be identical. This is caused by inconsistencies in the way the information was entered. Eventually, these inconsistencies will be resolved through a process called authority control.)

If you're not sure of exact terminology, or want to do a broader search, keyword searching can be very useful. For example, the search `sw=gold` retrieves all subject headings in which the word "gold" appears, not only those in which it is the first word.

Some catalog functions must be invoked by selecting one of the options at the bottom of a search screen. The "Modify search" option lets you limit a search by date, edition, language,

material type (physical format of an item), or publisher. The "OPAC parms" option (library automation jargon, meaning search parameters) lets you choose from a list of qualifiers representing library locations, collections, or types of materials. Thus, music lovers can look for the works of their favorite composers on CD, and engineers can limit their searches to Barker Library.

### Getting Help

All of the libraries are prepared to familiarize users with the new catalog. If you are in a library, you can get help at the reference desk. If you are connected to Barton remotely, there are a few avenues for getting help.

Within Barton, brief help messages are given for each command. For more detailed help, you can go to the Barton Help Web page at

```
http://nimrod.mit.edu/common/advance.html
```

In addition to search tips, this page includes a schedule of training sessions.

Athena users may send questions to OWL, the Online With the Libraries electronic reference service. At the athena% prompt, type

```
add library; owl
```

and when asked for a subject, type

```
cat
```

Macintosh users can connect to OWL using the application MacOLX.

Users are also welcome to call any of the libraries with their questions about the new Barton.

## WELCOME TO BARTON, THE MIT LIBRARIES' ONLINE CATALOG

Use arrow keys to highlight selection; then enter search terms.

\*OR\* type command; then enter search terms: `t=moby dick`

Look for the FIRST WORD(S) in:

Author	a=
Title	t=
Subject	s=
All Indexes	all=
Series	se=
Call Number	c=

Look for KEYWORD(S) in:

Author Keyword	aw=
Title Keyword	tw=
Subject Keyword	sw=
All Keywords	w=
Series Keyword	sew=
Notes	nw=

<Series Search>

<Additional Searches>

<Boolean Searching>

<Course Reserves>

<Thesis Searching>

>>>>

Enter author's name. (lastname, firstname)

For HELP, highlight command and press <ENTER>.

To EXIT, type E and press <ENTER>.



## Getting Help

If you don't know where to get help for your computer, network, or telephone problems, call the IS Help Line, **x3-2001** – or direct dial one of the help lines listed to the right.

If you prefer to use electronic mail, you can send your questions to the corresponding addresses on the far right. (When logged into Athena, you can also use the `olc` command to send questions to Athena's online consultants.)

For help with...	Dial...	Or send a message to...
Athena Computing Environment	3-4435	olc@mit.edu
Athena hardware repairs	3-1410	hotline@athena.mit.edu
Computer sales	3-7686	mcc@mit.edu
DEC and Sun software	3-6320	help@isis.mit.edu
Disabilities and computing	3-7808	atic@mit.edu
IS mainframes	3-7230	mithelp@mit.edu
Microcomputer and printer repairs	3-0815	pcservice@mit.edu
Microcomputer use	3-0001	micro-help@mit.edu
Networks/MITnet	3-4101	net-help@mit.edu
Telephone repairs	3-4357	5help@mit.edu
Voice mail	3-3677	vmail@mit.edu



## Recent Publications from Information Systems

These publications are free. Copies of documents in the AC series are available only in the Quick Copy Center in 11-004. You can pick up copies of all others in the MIT Computer Connection, W20-021. New publications are also available in the display racks outside the dispatch area in E19-630.

Some of these publications are on the World Wide Web. To view them, use the URLs listed beneath the titles.

You can also request IS publications by calling x3-5150 or sending e-mail to <sendpubs@mit.edu>.

Order No.	Title
AC-3	<i>Getting Started on Athena Tutorial, Version 2</i>
AC-103	<i>Private Athena Workstation: SPARCstation 5 Owner's Guide, Version 1</i>
NS-43	<i>Basic FAQs About Tether</i> <a href="http://web.mit.edu/tps/www/Tether/tetherhome.html">http://web.mit.edu/tps/www/Tether/tetherhome.html</a>
QG-4	<i>Microsoft Word for the Macintosh (version 6): Tips and Shortcuts</i>
QG-6	<i>Microsoft Word for Windows (version 6): Tips and Shortcuts</i>
RP-10	<i>Sharing Files Between Microsoft Word 5 and 6</i> (reprinted from <i>i/s</i> , March 1995)



Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 54016

*i/s* is printed with soy inks on recycled paper, and can be recycled in MIT's "white paper only" bins.